

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a blank made of powder ~~and intended~~ for a product for the human body, comprising:

- a) producing or selecting a punch with an outer shape corresponding to the inner shape of the blank,
- b) applying the punch and a starting powder in an inner space of a mold of elastic material,
- c) applying the mold with the punch and the starting powder in an impact-type compaction machine,
- d) transferring high energy per unit of time from at least one impaction member of the impact-type compaction machine to the mold in the machine,
- e) distributing the transferred energy by means of an isostatic function which is generated by means of the mold to compress the starting ~~powder, and~~ powder,
- f) sintering the compressed ~~powder, powder, and~~ powder, and
- g) separating the compressed powder from the punch.

12-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
~~demolding the compressed powder from the mold; and~~
machining the compressed powder prior to use in a product for the human body.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said transferring high energy per unit of time to the mold in the machine comprises delivering at least one impact upon the mold with the at least one impaction member of the machine.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one impaction member delivers a high impaction energy in excess of 900 Nm (Newton meters) to the mold upon said delivering at least one impact.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11~~ A method for producing a blank made of powder and intended for a product for the human body,

- a) producing or selecting a punch with an outer shape corresponding to the inner shape of the blank,
- b) applying the punch and a starting powder in an inner space of a mold of elastic material,
- c) applying the mold with the punch and the starting powder in an impact-type compaction machine,
- d) transferring high energy per unit of time from at least one impaction member of the impact-type compaction machine to the mold in the machine,
- e) distributing the transferred energy by means of an isostatic function which is generated by means of the mold to compress the starting powder, and
- f) sintering the compressed powder,

wherein the mold in which the punch and the starting powder are applied is configured to have a degree of softness defined by a Shore number in the range of 10-40.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11~~ A method for producing a blank made of powder and intended for a product for the human body,

- a) producing or selecting a punch with an outer shape corresponding to the inner shape of the blank,
- b) applying the punch and a starting powder in an inner space of a mold of elastic material,

c) applying the mold with the punch and the starting powder in an impact-type compaction machine,
d) transferring high energy per unit of time from at least one impaction member of the impact-type compaction machine to the mold in the machine,
e) distributing the transferred energy by means of an isostatic function which is generated by means of the mold to compress the starting powder, and
f) sintering the compressed powder,
wherein the mold in which the punch and the starting powder are applied comprises silicone.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11~~ A method for producing a blank made of powder and intended for a product for the human body,

a) producing or selecting a punch with an outer shape corresponding to the inner shape of the blank,
b) applying the punch and a starting powder in an inner space of a mold of elastic material,
c) applying the mold with the punch and the starting powder in an impact-type compaction machine,
d) transferring high energy per unit of time from at least one impaction member of the impact-type compaction machine to the mold in the machine,
e) distributing the transferred energy by means of an isostatic function which is generated by means of the mold to compress the starting powder, and
f) sintering the compressed powder,
wherein the mold applied to the impact-type compaction machine comprises a top portion and a bottom portion configured to be assembled together and applied to a recess in a die.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said distributing said transferred energy to compress the starting powder is configured to provide a compressed starting powder density of 90% or higher.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said distributing said transferred energy to compress the starting powder is configured to provide a compressed starting powder density of 95%-99.5%.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the starting powder applied in the inner space comprises one of at least Wah Chang HP -325 Mesh and Wah Chang CP -325 Mesh.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said sintering is performed in a sintering unit for a duration of 30 minutes to 2 hours, operating with or without a vacuum function.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11~~ A method for producing a blank made of powder and intended for a product for the human body,

- a) producing or selecting a punch with an outer shape corresponding to the inner shape of the blank,
 - b) applying the punch and a starting powder in an inner space of a mold of elastic material,
 - c) applying the mold with the punch and the starting powder in an impact-type compaction machine,
 - d) transferring high energy per unit of time from at least one impaction member of the impact-type compaction machine to the mold in the machine,
 - e) distributing the transferred energy by means of an isostatic function which is generated by means of the mold to compress the starting powder, and
 - f) sintering the compressed powder,
- wherein the product for the human body is a dental crown.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 19~~ A method for producing a blank made of powder and intended for a product for the human body,

- a) producing or selecting a punch with an outer shape corresponding to the inner shape of the blank,
- b) applying the punch and a starting powder in an inner space of a mold of elastic material,
- c) applying the mold with the punch and the starting powder in an impact-type compaction machine,
- d) transferring high energy per unit of time from at least one impaction member of the impact-type compaction machine to the mold in the machine,
- e) distributing the transferred energy by means of an isostatic function which is generated by means of the mold to compress the starting powder,
- f) sintering the compressed powder,
- g) separating the compressed powder from the punch, and
- h) machining the compressed powder prior to use in a product for the human body,
wherein the product for the human body is a dental crown.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 which further comprises applying a slide-promoting agent in the recess for the top portion and bottom portion.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the punch has a narrowed or waist-shaped portion.